

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 24-29 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-23 and 30-35 are now pending in this application.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-29 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-29 of Patent Application No. 09/883,495, issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,599,556, claims 1-37 of copending Patent Application Serial No. 09/883,496, claims 1-29 of copending Patent Application No. 09/883,849, and claims 1-42 of copending Patent Application No. 09/989,743.

The applicants have filed a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 32 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) to overcome this rejection.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a

check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Aug 21, 2003

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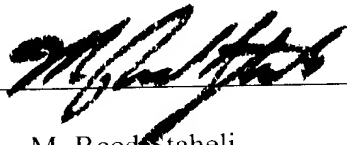


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